

# Senior Citizens Against Crime



## Don't Be Conned

According to the American Association of Retired Persons, older citizens are victims of fraudulent schemes far out of proportion to their population numbers. Keep informed about the latest con schemes in your community by reading the newspaper. Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept secret. Don't rush into anything. Check it out with friends, lawyers, the police department, Better Business Bureau, and your state or county consumer affairs department.

Be especially wary of:

- "Get rich quick" schemes for which you have to put up "good faith" money.
- "Good deals" on expensive repair or home improvement jobs.
- Investments that promise unusually large returns.
- Someone claiming you owe money for an item ordered by a deceased spouse or relative.
- Work at home schemes, door-to-door sales, supplemental medicare insurance, miracle cures, glasses and hearing aids at bargain prices.

If you are the victim of fraud, call the police immediately. You may be embarrassed because you were tricked, but your information is vital in catching the con artist and preventing others from being victimized.

## Take Action — Today!

Staying active in your community will help you to feel safer, and help to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

- Join a Neighborhood, Apartment, or Window Watch, or Citizen Patrol.

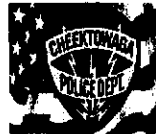


- Become a foster grandparent or block parent for children who may need help in an emergency.
- If a friend has been a victim of crime, be supportive. Listen carefully and nonjudgmentally, cook a meal, help repair damage or replace belongings. Accompany the victim to the police station and to court.
- Volunteer for a local Court Watch to help make courts more responsive to citizen needs.
- Ask the crime prevention officer from your local law enforcement agency to talk to your senior citizens' group.

*Crime Prevention tips from:*

**The National Crime Prevention Council**  
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
13th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036

*and*



**Cheektowaga Police**  
Crime Resistance Unit  
275 Alexander Avenue  
Cheektowaga, NY 14211  
(716) 897-7293



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**TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
CRIME®**

*Take these tips from me, McGruff,  
and be my partner for a safe  
community.*